

SEP 22 1998

CONCORD, NH

AIRMAIL

Hon. Styles Bridges, U.S.S.
145 Senate Office Bld'g
Washington, D.C.

July 21, 1954

Dear Senator:

You have inquired whether reprints of an article published and printed as part of the current issue of a magazine (tending to aid, injure or defeat a candidate) originally printed and published outside of New Hampshire, may be distributed in New Hampshire merely as reprints without further signature or other indication thereon of the source of the reprint and distribution.

In my opinion applicable law (R.L. C. 42 s. 7) requires that any such reprints must contain as a part thereof, either the signature of the person or committee mailing, distributing, selling or giving them away, or a statement showing at whose expense they are mailed, given away or distributed.

The statute reads as follows:

"CIRCULARS, etc. No person or committee shall mail, give away or distribute any letter, circular or other written or printed matter not contained in a newspaper or other publication printed and published within this state, which is designed or tends to aid, injure or defeat any... person to be voted for at any election*, or wherein the merits of any suchperson shall be discussed, unless the same shall be signed by such person or committee, or shall bear printed or stamped thereon a true statement showing at the expense of what person or committee the same is mailed, given away or distributed. Any person who shall violate any provision of this section shall be fined not more than fifty dollars."

The mere fact that the original article as appearing in the magazine may have been signed by its author would not satisfy the requirements of the aforementioned statute when the article is reprinted separate from the issue in which it originally appeared, unless, of course, the author himself actually mailed, gave away or distributed the reprint.

With best regards,

*including primary

Louis C. Wyman
Attorney General